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The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Lands
US House of Representatives
451 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Federal Lands
US House of Representatives
2400 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse,

On behalf of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), which partners with over 200 local organizations and nearly 200,000 individual supporters, we appreciate the Subcommittee's meaningful work with regards to the importance of outdoor recreation and conservation. Specifically, IMBA strongly supports H.R. 1319, the Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act, which will improve access to quality outdoor recreation trail opportunities on public lands across America.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) creates, enhances and protects great places to ride mountain bikes. It is focused on creating more trails close to home to grow the quantity and quality of mountain bike trail communities across the U.S., so everyone has access to close-to-home rides and iconic backcountry experiences. Since 1988, IMBA has been the worldwide leader in mountain bike advocacy and the only organization focused entirely on trails and access for all types of mountain bikers in all parts of the U.S. IMBA teaches and encourages low-impact riding, grassroots advocacy, sustainable trail design, innovative land management practices and cooperation among trail user groups. IMBA U.S. is a national network of local groups, individual riders and passionate volunteers working together for the benefit of the entire community.

The Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act is a top legislative priority for our community as it continues the investment in outdoor recreation by recognizing the importance of long distance trails to create iconic backcountry discovery while supporting small rural communities. The legislation will require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior to:

- Identify no less than 10 existing long-distance bike trails on Federal lands in excess of 80 miles in distance;
- Identify 10 areas where opportunity exists to develop or complete long-distance bike trails on federal lands in excess of 80 miles in distance;
- Coordinate with stakeholders on feasibility of completing long distance trails and the resources necessary for such projects;
- Publish maps, signage, and promotional materials highlighting the positive aspects of the long-distance trail network;



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- Issue a report, with input from stakeholders, outlining the details of existing and proposed long-distance trails and their promotion.

There are a number of trails that will benefit from this long-distance trails recognition, such as the Ouachita National Recreation Trail in Arkansas, the High Country Pathway in Michigan, Maah Daah Hey trail in North Dakota, the Great Divide Mountain Bike Trail running from the Canada to Mexico border, and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Utah are all mountain bike trails that will benefit from the BOLT Act. Long-distance bike trails have brought incredible economic benefits to communities across the country, and the BOLT Act will help further bolster the economy.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis the recreation economy accounted for \$454 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is an increase of \$107 billion over 2020. Headwater Economics projects that these numbers present a significantly higher value than some of the traditional economic drivers such as motor vehicle manufacturing; oil, gas, and coal; air transportation; and the performing arts.

The recent pandemic makes clear that access to public lands is essential for the health and well-being of Americans. IMBA strongly believes that this is proven by the increase in cycling seen during the pandemic, which has held beyond the pandemic. This trail access legislation is an important step forward in utilizing existing bike trails for a greater purpose and value to the public. The BOLT Act also takes tangible steps toward identifying future trails that could be designated and developed in underserved areas of the country. Biking, in all of its forms, has numerous physical, mental, and social benefits. The BOLT Act is a commonsense, bipartisan way to increase pedal-power and wellness through concerted access to public lands trails.

IMBA appreciates the Committee's role in outdoor recreation across the United States and its important work on the BOLT Act. We stand ready to assist the Committee to ensure passage of this important bill into law and find any additional opportunities to increase outdoor recreation to benefit our members and Americans nationwide. Thank you for allowing us to testify before you today.

Sincerely,

Todd Keller, Director of Government Affairs
International Mountain Bicycling Association